THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been launched by the Prime Minister on 12.4.05.

(b) Yes Sir, the NRHM aims at providing comprehensive primary health care to rural population throughout the country.

(c) The NRHM is the articulation of the commitment of the Government to undertake systemic corrections to enable effective utilization of increased allocations for Health Sector as envisaged in the National Common Minimum Programme. Strengthening public health infrastructure is a key strategy under the Mission, inclusive of pooling infrastructure and financial resources under various programmes, optimizing manpower, upgrading health facilities to IPHS, and increasing technical and managerial capacity for the Mission at national state and district level.

(d) Yes Sir, the Mission seeks the Panchayati Raj Institutions to lead the District Health Mission, at district, block and village level. Constitution of a Hospital Management Society is envisaged for increased accountability to the community.

(e) The Mission aims to provide comprehensive integrated healthcare services to the rural poor, especially to the disadvantaged groups, including women and children, by improving access to quality healthcare facilities. The duration of the Mission is from 2005-12.

Surveillance cell on foeticide

4739. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to set up a national surveillance cell to check foeticide; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The setting up of a "National Surveillance Cell" for effective implementation of

the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act 1994 has been approved by the Central Supervisory Board to be taken up on pilot basis by appointing senior retired police officers as consultants. This will help in collecting intelligence on such units who indulge in determination and communication of sex during pregnancy. The focus will be on the States of Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and Delhi where the problem is more serious. The senior retired police officers will assist the Appropriate Authorities of the above States in identifying and apprehending the wrong doers.

Dengue Fear

4740. SHRI E.M. SUDARSHANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of dengue have been recurring in the different parts of the country recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stringent steps proposed to be taken by Government to protect the people against this deadly disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the reports received from the State Health authorities, the details of cases of Dengue and deaths due to Dengue are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See below*).

(c) The strategy for the prevention and control of Dengue/Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever includes:—

* Disease and Vector surveillance.
* Case Management.
* Early reporting of cases.
* Vector control mainly through source reduction with community participation.
* IEC Campaign for community awareness and their active involvement in source reduction and personal protection measures.